

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

From the Office of the Secretary.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

The interest, with which the people of the Republic anticipate the transaction of the State, and the importance of the transaction to the State, has given rise to a new President, in one of the best evidence of their capacity as rulers, the leaders of the founders of a political system, at once simple and systematical. While the different branches of the government are, as a class, without exception, of equal value, the executive, in its action—especially in the exercise of power—particularly, under this system, is so high, and so much to be trusted, in the scale of public stations, as to escape from the scrutiny, or to be excepted, from the responsibility, which all official functions imply.

Upon the justice and intelligence of the masses, in the various states organized, is the sole reliance of the confederacy, and the only security for honest and unbiased devotion to its interests, a general recognition and consciousness of powers on the one hand, and the sense of personal accountability on the other.

The condition of China at this time, renders it probable that some important changes will occur in the east empire, which will lead to a more restricted intercourse with it. The commercial and fiscal policy, which has been recently adopted, is calculated to avoid losses of our commerce with China, and to maintain our relations with the empire, and with other Asian powers.

In 1852, an expedition was sent to Japan, under command of Commodore Perry, for the purpose of opening commercial intercourse with that island nation, and the results of his mission were favorable, and of having now known, to the extent of Japan the object of his visit; but he did not ascertain how far the emperor will be disposed to abdicate his restrictive policy, and subject the population of his country to a common law, in accordance with the United States.

It is upon the basis of these considerations that we have sought to maintain friendly relations with all, and to aid them in preserving good understanding among themselves. With Mexico, a dispute over territory of New Mexico and the Mexican State of Chihuahua, a former comissioner of the United States, has been making, during the past year, a series of surveys, which has been associated with the surveyor general, and the demands of the Mexican government, in meeting the demands of the United States.

Although disease, occurring at times, the characteristics of a widespread and devastating pestilence, has left us and taken upon many portions of our country, we have still, notwithstanding the apparent progress, if not the actual, of our national integrity, resting upon the great truths affirmed and declared by divine revelation.

In the midst of our sorrows, for the afflicted and suffering, it has been enabling to see how principally disease, and the sympathies of distress and compassion, have been the bond of brotherhood, while uniting all hearts, in all parts of this Union, those dangers threatening from abroad or calamity impend over us at home.

Our diplomatic relations with foreign powers have undergone no essential change since the adoption of the present system. With Brazil, there are questions of a disturbing character still pending, but there are good reasons to believe that they will all be amicably adjusted.

For some years past, Great Britain has so construed the first article of the convention of the 2nd of April, 1819, as to give full effect to the article, as it stands, as to exclude all entanglements from the fishing grounds, to which they freely consented for nearly a quarter of a century subsequent to the date of that treaty.

The United States have never acquiesced in this construction, but have always claimed for their fishermen, all rights which the law of nations, and of the present system, afford.

With a view to remove all difficulties on the subject, I have written to the minister of foreign affairs, to instruct him to negotiate a new convention, to extend the rights of our fishermen beyond the limits fixed by the convention of 1819, and to regulate trade between the United States and the British North American provinces, a copy of which has been enclosed for your information.

To protect our fisheries in the enjoyment of their rights, and to prevent collisions between them and the British fishermen, I deemed it expedient to station a naval force in that quarter during the fishing season.

Entangling questions have also arisen between the United States and England in regard to Great Britain. Great Britain has proposed to settle them by an amicable arrangement, and our minister at London is instructed to enter into negotiations on that subject.

A commission for adjusting the claims of our citizens against Brazil, and the British West Indies, has been appointed, and the United States, organized for the 8th of February last, is now sitting in London for the transaction of business.

It is in many respects desirable that the boundary between the United States and the British West Indies should be clearly defined.

In the convention of the 13th of June, 1842, and especially that part which separates the Territory of Washington from the British possessions on the north, should be traced and marked. I therefore present the subject to your notice.

With France our relations continue on the most friendly basis.

Between the United States and that country might, it is conceived, be relaxed from some unnecessary restrictions, to the mutual advantage of both parties.

With a view to this object, some progress has been made in negotiating a treaty of commerce and navigation, and I have directed that a special committee be appointed to conclude such a treaty.

Independently of our extensive trade with Spain, we have important political relations with her, growing out of our neighborhood to the Islands of Cuba and Porto Rico. I am happy to announce that since the last Congress no attempts have been made by unauthorized expeditions within the United States, against either of these colonies. Should any movement be manifested within our limits, all the means at my command will be vigorously exercised to repel it.

Several annoying occurrences have taken place at Havana, or in the vicinity of the Island of Cuba, between our citizens and Spanish authorities.

Considering the importance of that island to us, and as it does, in the track of trade between some of our principal cities—and the suspicious vigilance with which Spanish interference, particularly with the United States, is now manifested, a repetition of such occurrences may well be apprehended.

As a diplomatic measure, it is also important to keep up a close alliance with Hayti, and the Capital General of Cuba, ready explanations cannot be made, or prompt redress afforded where injury has resulted.

All complaint on the part of our citizens, under the present arrangement, must be, in the first instance, referred to the Spanish authorities, and then reported to Spain. Similar reference to the local authorities in Cuba, and to the Spanish minister at Madrid, is to be had recourse to, in the event of any such occurrence.

This course, on my part, is, I trust, the best, and the most judicious, and I hope it will be followed by the Spanish government.

During the winter, the Spanish minister at Madrid, in his note of the 21st of January, has informed me that the Spanish government has received the communication of the 13th of June, 1842, and of my protest against that part of the same, which separates the Territory of Washington from the British possessions on the north, should be traced and marked. I therefore present the subject to your notice.

For several years Spain has been calling the attention of this government to a claim for losses, by some of her subjects, in the case of the schooner "Lima," which was captured by the English, and then recaptured by Spain. Similar reference to the local authorities in Cuba, and to the Spanish minister at Madrid, is to be had recourse to, in the event of any such occurrence.

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While thus imprisoned, Commodore Ingraham, with the United States ship of war St. Louis, arrived at Smyrna, and, after entering into the service of the Turkish empire, was sent to the coast of Asia Minor, to assist in the reduction of the fortifications of the city of Smyrna, and to support the cause of the revolutionists.

Regarding Koscea, still his master, he has demanded his release, and has demanded of this government the consent to the surrender of the prisoner, a citizen of the state of his agents, and intercessions for his release.

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clothed with the Nationality of the United States, and that the acts of our officers, under the circumstances of the case, were justifiable, and their conduct has been fully approved by me, and a communication with the secretary of state, and the attorney general, has been obtained, for a more full account of this transaction, and my views in regard to it, in order to the correspondence between the chief of staff of Austria and the Secretary of State, which is heretofore transmitted. The principles and policy should be maintained on the part of the United States, with respect to the proper conduct of our officers, and the safety of our men.

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does any grave controversy now prevail, there being a general acquiescence in the wisdom of the present system.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury will be sent to the Senate, and the report of the Auditor, and the condition of the public service administered by that department.

The revenue of the country, levelled almost entirely to the tax-payer, goes on year to year, increasing beyond the interest of the nation, and the expenses of the government.

At the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1852, there remained in the treasury a balance of four million six hundred and thirty two thousand one hundred and thirty-six dollars. The public revenue for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1852, amounted to fifty-eight million nine hundred and sixty-five dollars, leaving a balance of thirty-two million four hundred and twenty-four thousand four hundred and forty-four dollars.

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